

In the Claims

1. (cancelled).
2. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[10]]~~ 14, characterized in that the elevated temperature is between 300°C and 600°C.
3. and 4. (cancelled).
5. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[10]]~~ 14, characterized in that the ~~identification-marker~~ marking agent is applied to the surface of the container in the form of a bar code.
6. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that said bar code is applied annularly onto a cylindrical portion of the sample container in a manner that said bar code is readable along a cylindrical axis of the sample container.
7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[10]]~~ 14, characterized in that the ~~identification-marker~~ marking agent is applied to the surface of the container along with numerals or letters.
8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[10]]~~ 14, characterized in that the ~~identification-marker~~ marking agent is applied to the surface of the container in the form of numerals or letters.

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[10]]~~ 14, characterized in that the ~~identification marker~~ marking agent is applied to the surface of the container in the form of symbols.
10. (cancelled)
11. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[10]]~~ 14, further comprising the step of manufacturing a container for holding a sample to be analyzed.
12. (cancelled)
13. (cancelled)
14. (currently amended) A method for labeling a sample container, comprising the steps of:
elevating a temperature of the container to an elevated temperature ~~above a degassing temperature, which is greater than a sample analysis temperature; [and]~~
cooling the container and;
applying an ~~identification marker~~ a marking agent to ~~[the]~~ a surface of the container at the ~~elevated temperature~~ while cooling the container above a degassing temperature characteristic of the marking agent.
- 15.(currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[10]]~~ 14, characterized in that the ~~identification marker~~ marking agent is applied to the container by ink jet printing.
16. (new) A method of labeling a sample container, the method comprising:
applying a marking agent to a surface of the container; and

evaporating volatile constituents of the marking agent.

17. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein evaporating volatile constituents of the marking agent comprises elevating the temperature of the container to an elevated temperature above a degassing temperature characteristic of the marking agent.

18. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 17 wherein elevating the temperature of the container comprises elevating the temperature of the container to a temperature above a sample analysis temperature.

19. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein applying a marking agent to a surface of the container comprises applying a bar code to the surface of the container.

20. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein applying a marking agent to a surface of the container comprises applying numerals or letters to the surface of the container.

21. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein applying a marking agent to a surface of the container comprises applying symbols to the surface of the container.

22. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein applying a marking agent to a surface of the container comprises applying an ink to the surface of the container.

23. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 17 wherein in that the elevated temperature is between 300°C and 600°C.
24. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 17 wherein in that the elevated temperature is approximately 500°C.
25. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 17 further comprising cooling the container.
26. (new) The method as set forth in Claim 25 further comprising applying a marking agent to a surface of the container while cooling the container.